ACT 1: MASARU - CHAPTER TWENTY SIX

"THE CURTAIN IS DOWN"

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MASARU

CHAPTER
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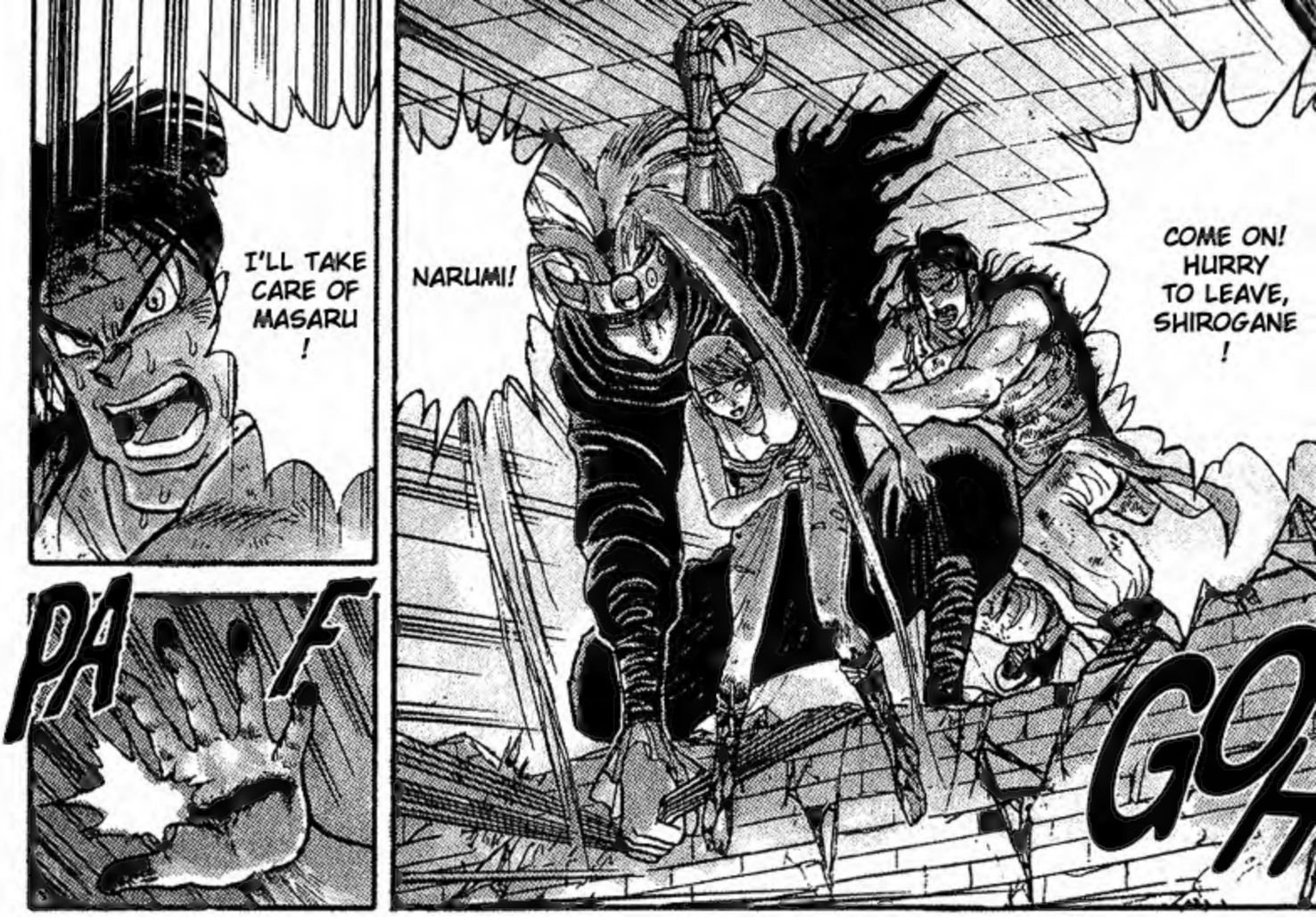
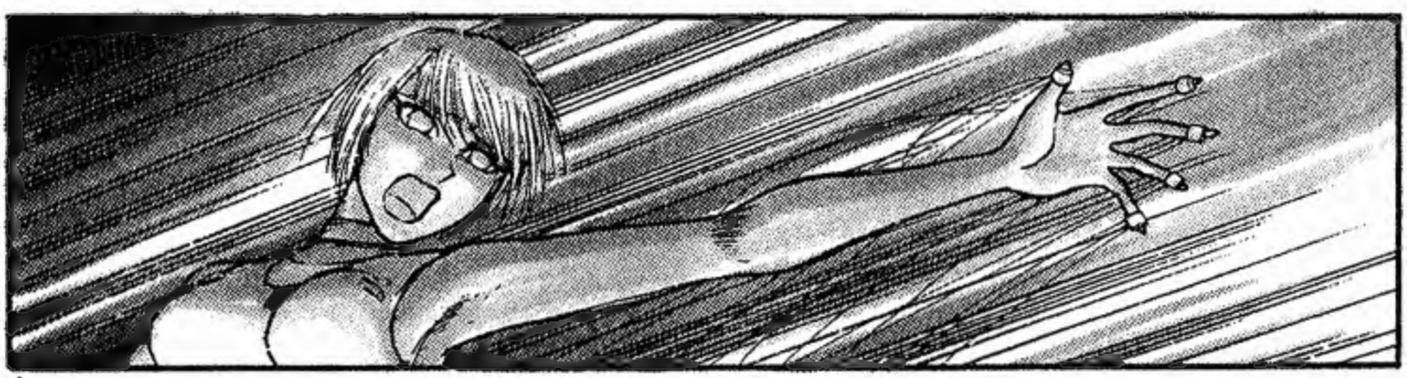

I'LL TAKE CARE OF MASARU !
PA F
NARUMI!
COME ON! HURRY TO LEAVE, SHIROGANE !
GO



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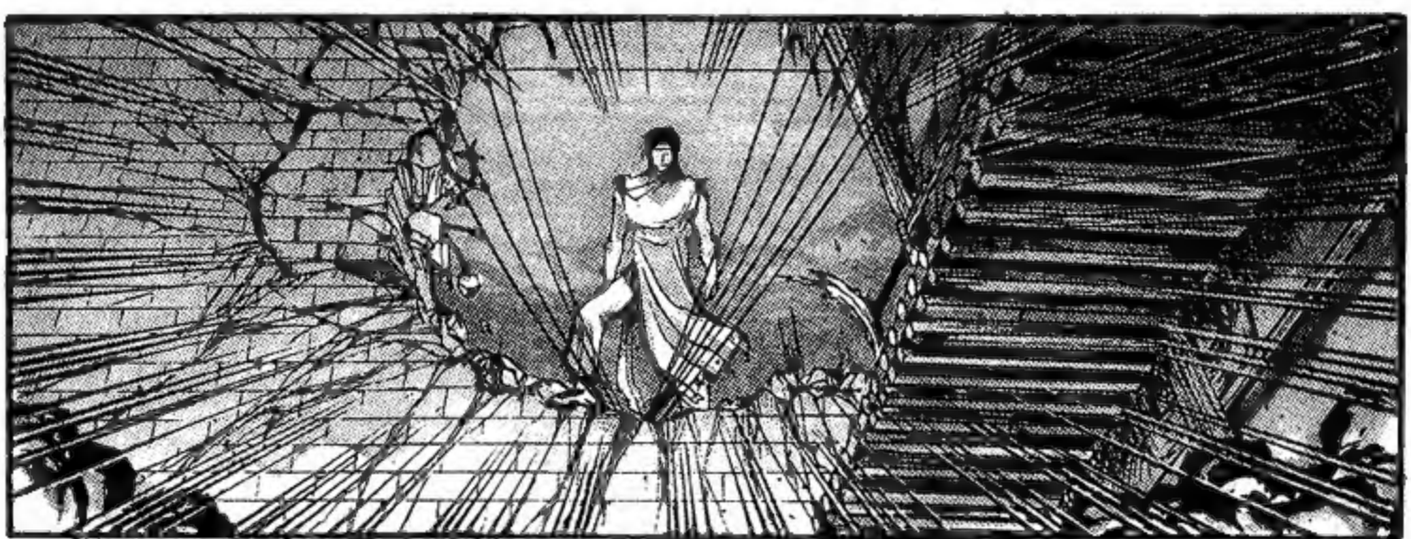

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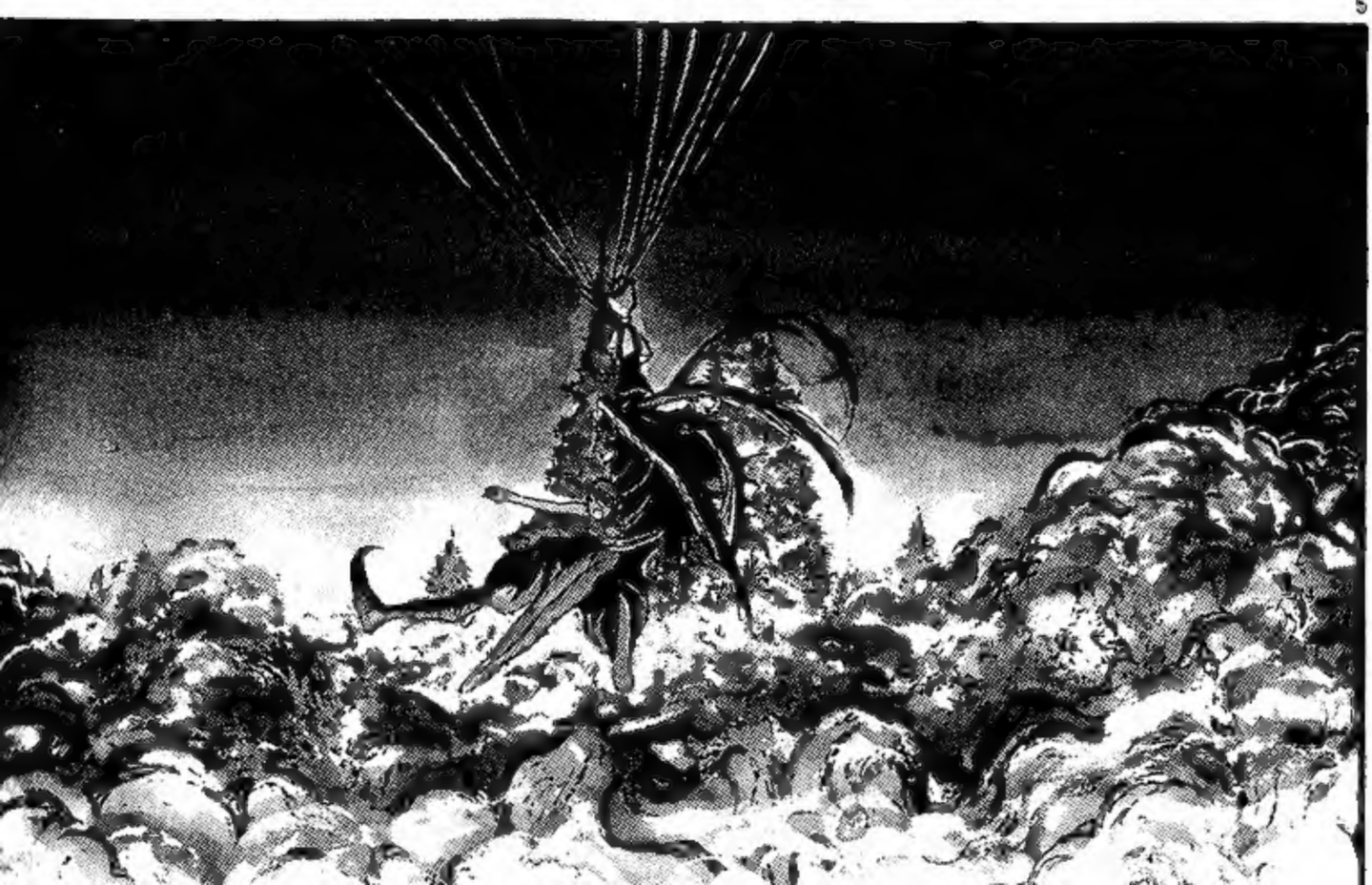

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GOOOOHH

BLAAMM
DOOH

...NO!
...NO!
EVERY-
THING'S
OVER
!!
WE'LL TRY
TO GO BACK
UP THERE!
NARUMI'S
WAITING US
TO LEAVE
!

UNCLE
ZENJI
!
GRR

THIS WAY !
MUUH ... MUUH ...

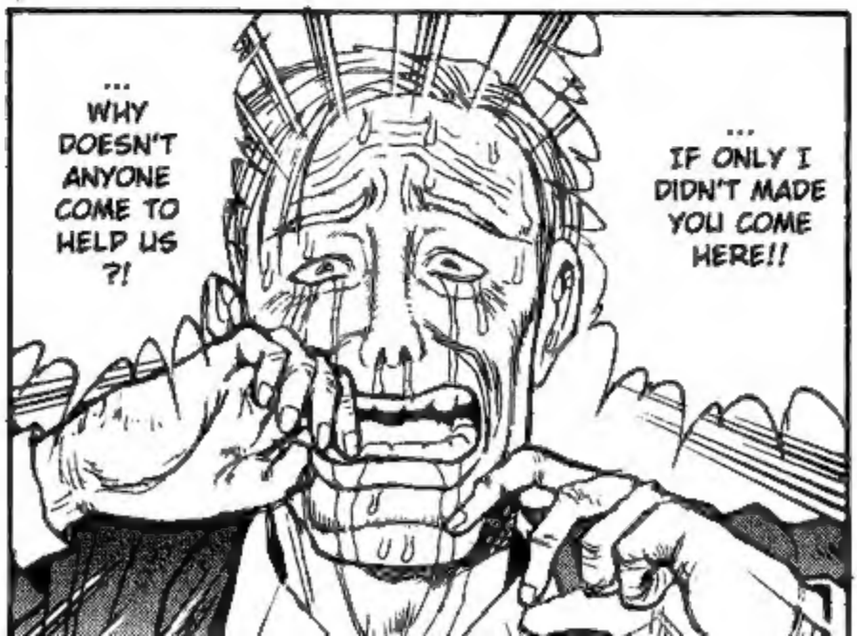
THE STAIRS HAVE COLLAPSED! WE CAN'T GO ANYWHERE !

FLAP
FLAP

PSCHHH

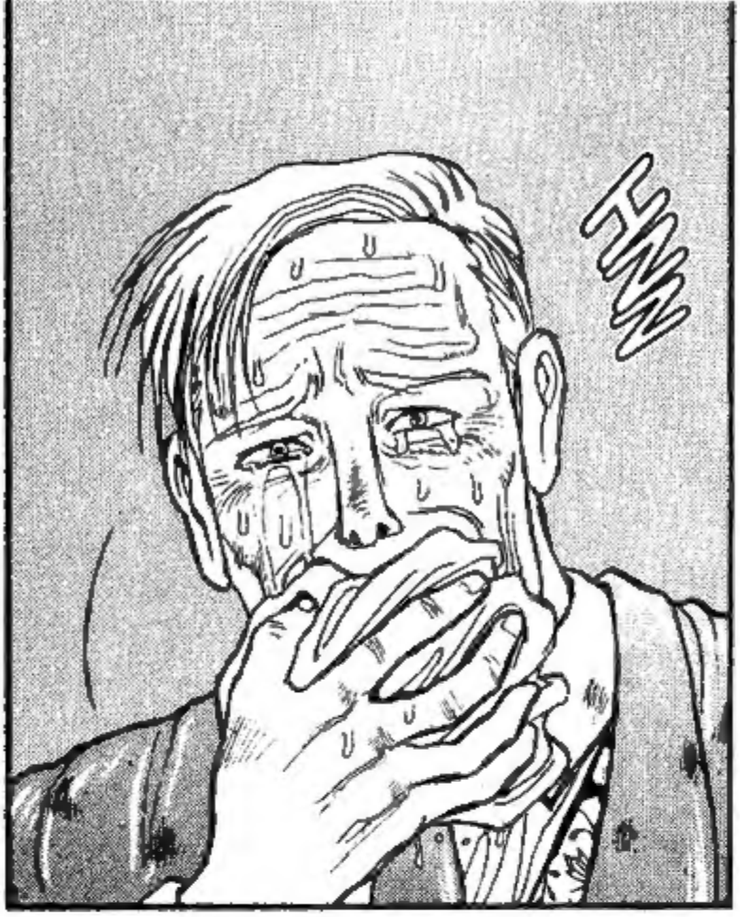
PUT THIS ON YOUR MOUTH! I READ FROM A BOOK THAT IT ENABLES TO BREATH, WHEN SURROUNDED BY FIRE! IT'LL MAKE US ABLE TO RUN AWAY

SCHRAC


... WHY DOESN'T ANYONE COME TO HELP US ?!
... IF ONLY I DIDN'T MADE YOU COME HERE!!

TO RUN AWAY ?! AND TO GO WHERE ?! IT'S NO USE, ALL THIS !!
PAF

YOU'RE NOT VERY COURAGEOUS, MY UNCLE ...
WHAT ?
...
...
...
BUT... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?!
NEVER GIVE UP!
... UNDERSTOOD ?!
YOU SHOUT FOR HELP WHEN HAVING A PROBLEM ...
... AND YOU INSULT PEOPLE WHEN BEING ANGRY ...
HUUH?!
WHEN I MET NARUMI FOR THE FIRST TIME...
... IT WAS THIS WAY HOW HE ENCOURAGED ME


HM

WE'LL GET OUT OF HERE !
NOW ... COME, UNCLE ZENJI ...

DOOOH!

WHAT'S IN THE BASEMENT ?

THAT'S IT...
BUT YES! THE BASEMENT ...

THESE STAIRS LEAD TO THE BASEMENT! THEY DIDN'T TAKE FIRE YET!
THIS WAY !

WHAT'S GOING ON?

BRRRRRR OMM
IT'S THERE THAT I WANTED TO DROWN YOUR FRIENDS ...
A VERY LARGE NETWORK OF GALLERIES AND TUNNELS IS ACCESSIBLE WHEN COMING FROM THE BASEMENT
LET'S GO !!
BUT ...
YES! THERE WILL BE SOME AIR
THEN IT MEANS THAT ...
THE WATER COMES FROM A LAKE NEARBY
AND THE LOCKS HAVEN'T BEEN CLOSED, SINCE THE OTHER TIME
IT WON'T BE WORSE THAN STAYING HERE !!

CRAC
PAC

GOOHH

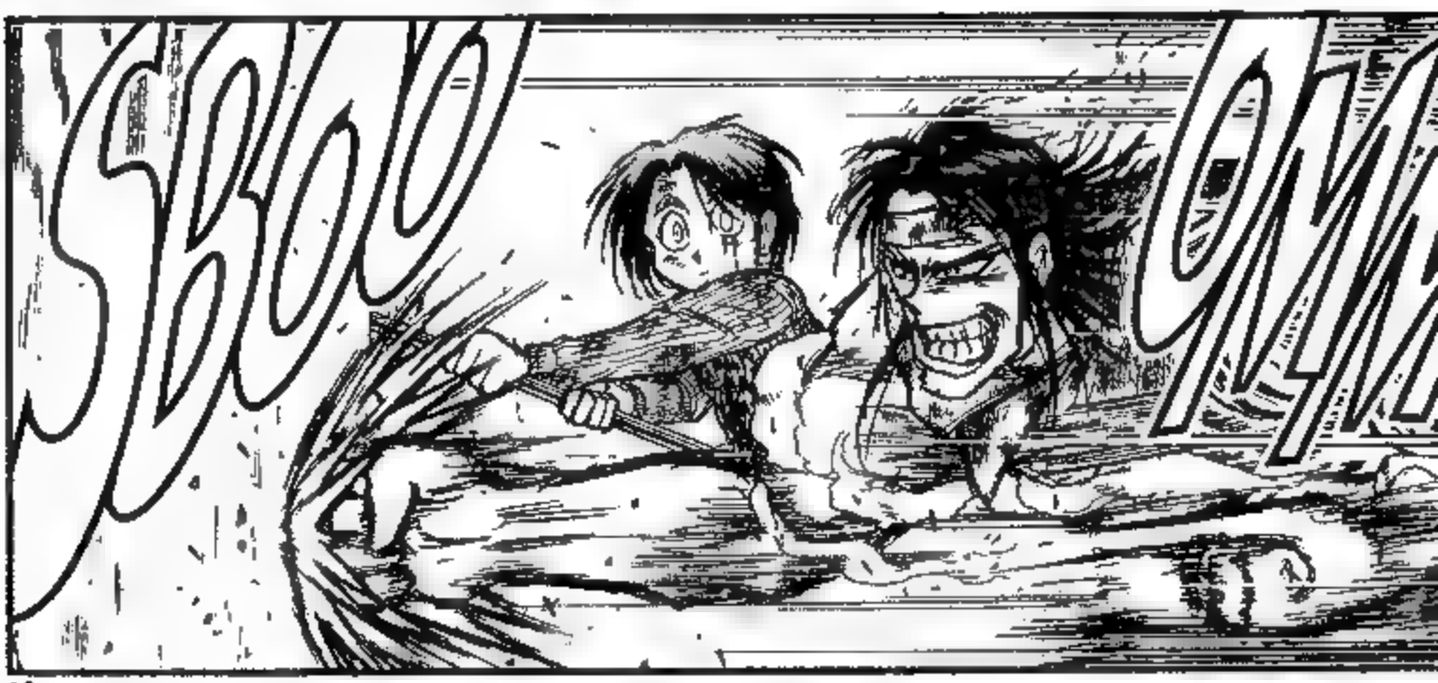
THE DOOR THAT EXISTED HAS BEEN LOCKED UP
IT'S HERE BUT

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING
WHERE IS IT?

BING

THERE'S ONE OF THE TUNNELS
BEHIND THIS WALL . . .

HEUH
HEUH
GAAAAAH
BLAM
BLANG
THE FIRE IS JUST BEHIND US!
QUICK! WE MUST BREAK THIS WALL ... JUST HERE !!
BOOM
UNCLE ZENJI !
BOOM
I'LL CONTINUE ... UNTIL THE END !
YES NARUMI, YOU'RE RIGHT !
EVERY-THING'S OVER MY BOY
HEUH HEUH
NEVER GIVE UP !!



I'VE LOOKED FOR THE PLACE WHERE THE FIRE WAS THE WEAKEST
BUT... HOW...

NARUM!?!
...
IT'S YOU ?!

PROBABLY A TUNNEL ... WHICH LEADS TO OUTSIDE
TELL ME
YOU WANTED TO BREAK THIS WALL ? I CONGRATULATE YOU! YOU KNOW WHAT'S BEHIND ?
OHH
DOH
PERFECT !!

!
NARUM! YOUR HANDS ARE COVERED WITH BLOOD !
DON'T WORRY ... MY CHI-KONG TECHNIQUE IS PERFECT!

WHILE MY BODY WORKS, I HAVE TO ACCOMPLISH MY DUTY!
ANYWAY ...
ZZAAN
SHAH
SHAH
SHAH

HUUH? NOT AT ALL!
YOU'VE GOT A ZONAPHA ATTACK?!
SHAH
SHAH

GLOUPS
DON'T CRY !!

I DON'T WANT YOU TO HURT YOURSELF !
NO, STOP !
SHAHH

15

I'LL SAVE YOU !
DON'T CRY MASARU .

I PROMISED
. TO SHIROGANE
SAH

BLAM!
GRR...!
GRR...!

MMM
YOU DID IT !
SCHAAHH!

THE WHOLE BUILDING IS ON FIRE !
BLAHOOM

BLAAM!!
YOUNG MASTER! NARUMI!
...CAREFUL, NARUMI!
BRRL
THIS WAY, MASARU!
AOOM
NARUMI!
SDAN
GHH
DOM
DON'T WORRY, I'LL PROTECT YOU
HA HA! I DON'T FEEL ANY-THING!
17

MY GRAND-FATHER WAS A CLOWN
HE WAS PROUD OF HIS JOB AND WAS ALWAYS SAYING THAT HE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO STOP!
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, MY GRANDFATHER TOLD ME
THAT I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A CLOWN, IN A CIRCUS
AH?
IF I HAD BECOME A CLOWN
I WOULD HAVE MET LOTS OF PEOPLE ABLE TO LAUGH
I REFUSED TO FOLLOW HIM
AND DEVOTED MYSELF TO KUNG-FU
SPLAT
18
MASARU
YOU HAVE TO CONTINUE TO LAUGH
NARUMI
ALL THIS TO SAY
... THAT I'M VERY HAPPY TO HAVE MET YOU
... LIKE YOU MASARU

..
PROMISE ME THAT YOU'LL TRY TO LAUGH, ALL THE REMAINING TIME
BUT ...

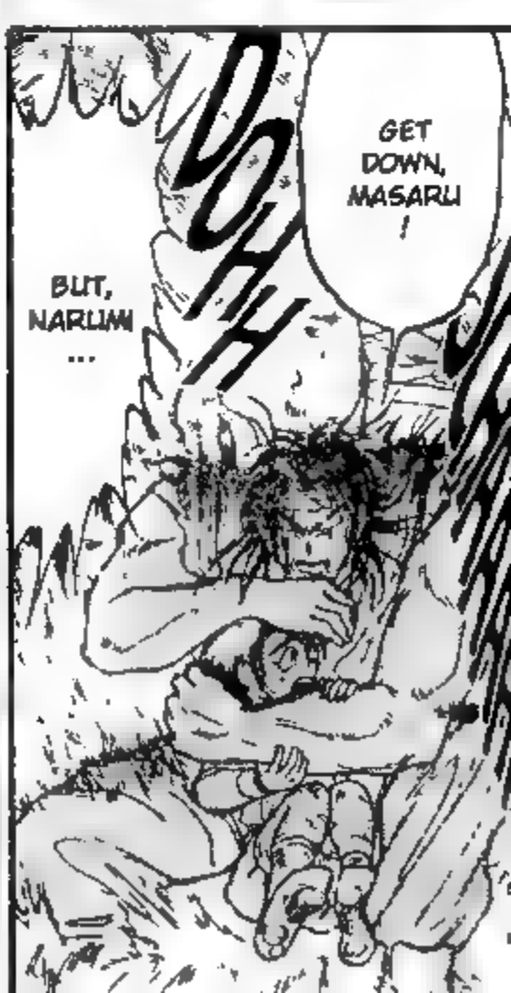
YOU'LL PERHAPS LIVE TIMES WHEN YOU'LL WANT TO CLENCH YOUR TEETH, OR EVEN CRY...

NARUMI !
BRRROM
VROM

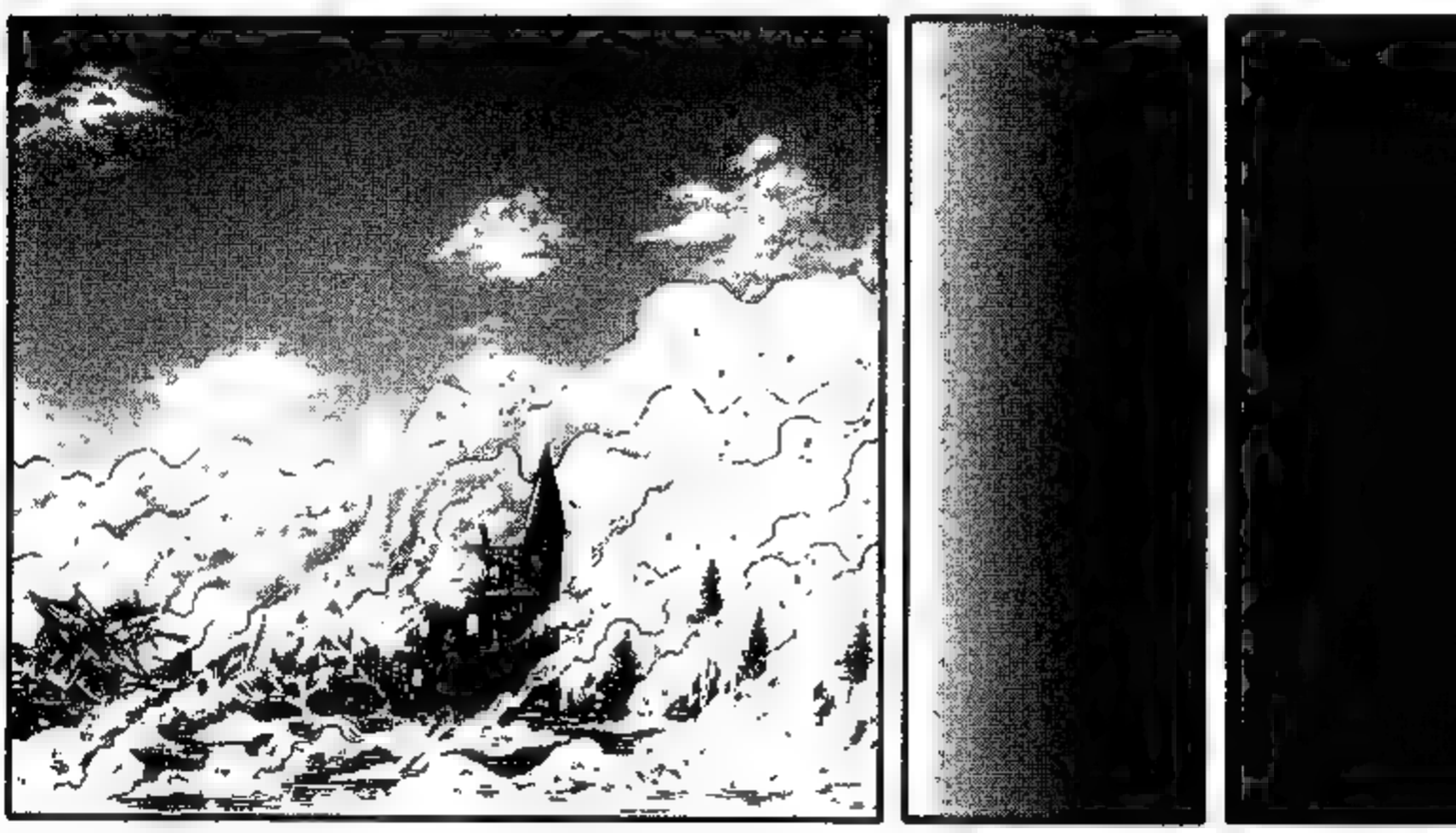
GRRA

NARUMI!!

... TRY TO ALWAYS TAKE THE GOOD DECISION
WHEN YOU'LL LIVE AN IMPORTANT MOMENT ...
GOOUU


GET DOWN, MASARU !
BUT, NARUMI ...
DOH

BLAAAM



VHHH
CHH
SPLATCH
VHHH
WE'RE SAVED, NARUMI !
FUUU... IT'S OVER ..

ONE CAN SAY THAT LIFE IS A LONG PATH ...

25

ONE DAY, MY PATH, SEPARATED IN TWO ...

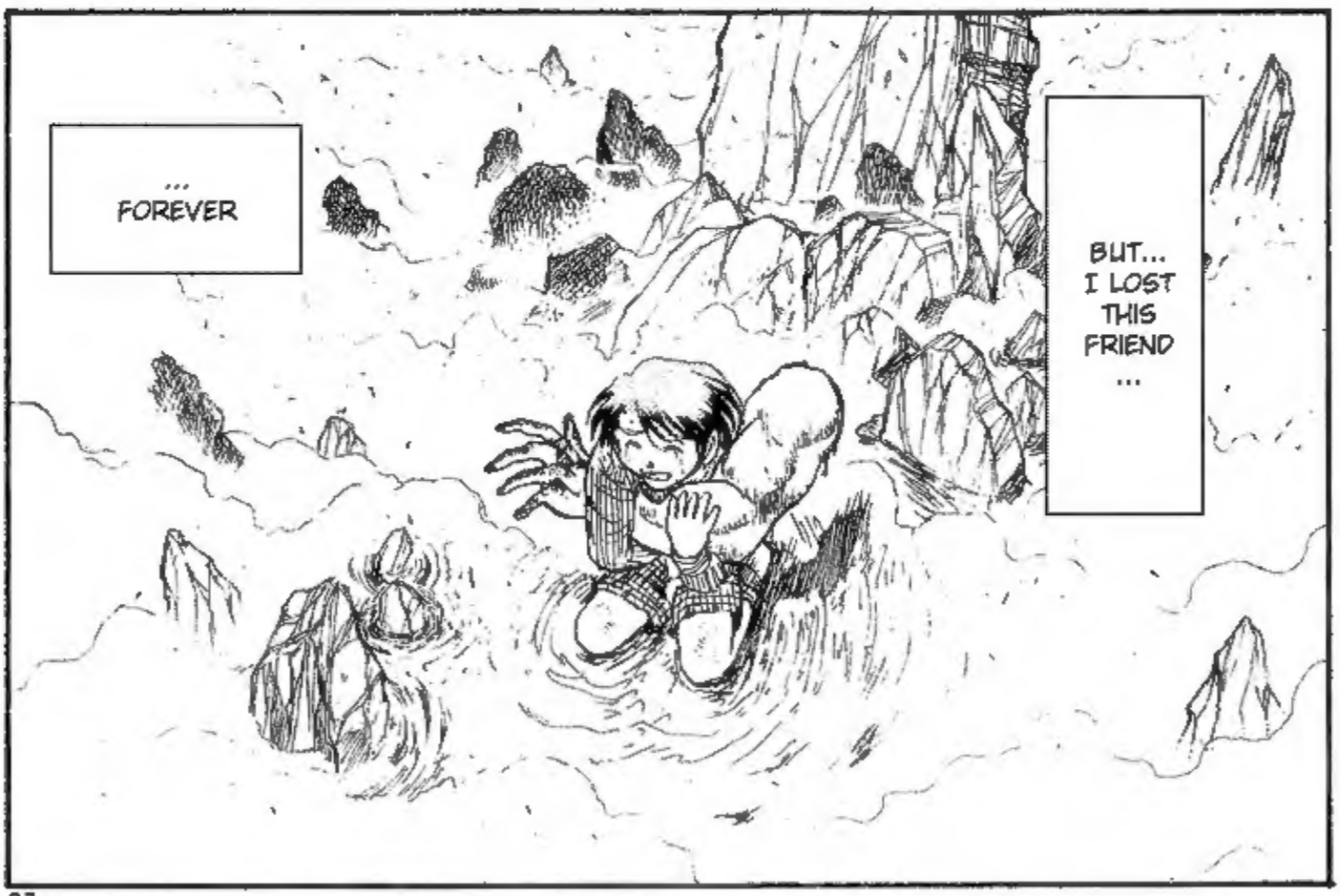
... I MET A FUNNY BEAR
THIS DAY ...

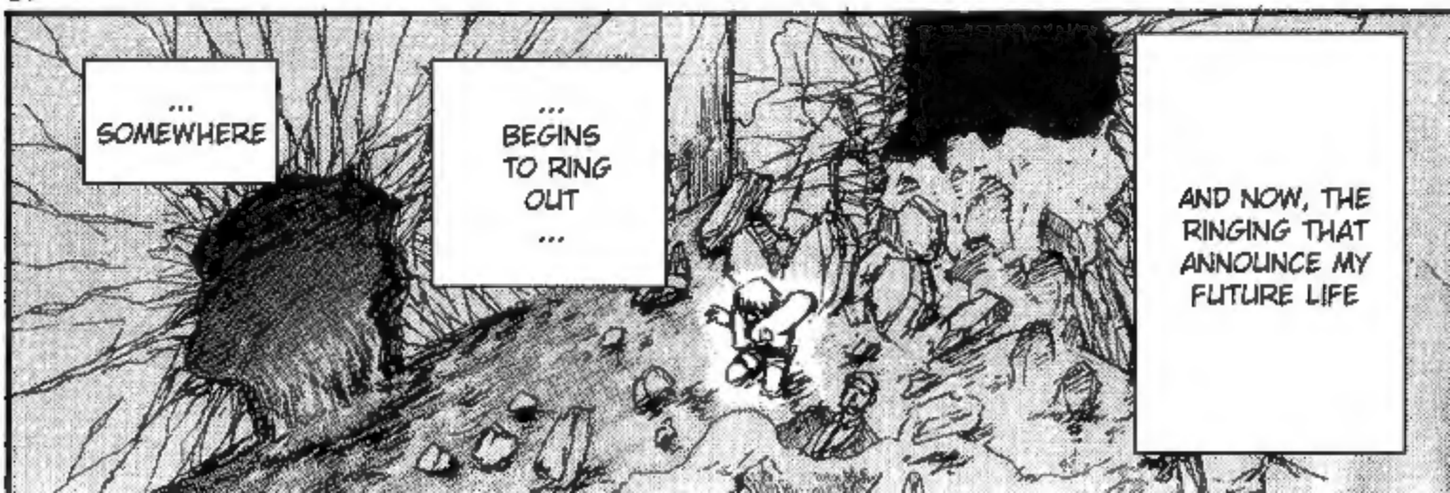
I IGNORE HIM
I TALK WITH HIM

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRAIN WITH ME ?
WHERE ARE THE ALIBERGINES ?

I TALK WITH HIM
DU SOLEIL

I'VE LEARNED LOTS OF THINGS
TO SMILE
CONT-INUE ...
STINKY DIRTY VERMIN !!
... YOU'VE DEFENDED YOURSELF WELL TODAY !
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BECOME STRONG
IF YOU DESIRE IT
... THAT'S VERY INTER-ESTING !
THANKS TO HIM ...


... FOREVER
BUT... I LOST THIS FRIEND ...


... SOMEWHERE
... BEGINS TO RING OUT ...
AND NOW, THE RINGING THAT ANNOUNCE MY FUTURE LIFE

DON'T FORGET, MASARU ...
... YOU MUSTN'T CRY !
EVEN IN A TERRIBLE SITUATION, IF YOU UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CAN LAUGH ABOUT IT...

END OF ACT ONE : MASARU